

have no junto of patriots who kindly assume the toils of Government for the paltry equivalent of the people's money only. We recognize no organizations unknown to the constitution, to ride and rule over the laws; to manufacture public opinion to order; and to club the wits of dishonest men; to seize upon the Government, and plunder a confiding community.

Sir, we have seen, in the history of other States, and great States too, that bad men have established regencies, self-constituted, ambitious, and unprincipled, which, by means of perfect organization, comprehending every county, and every township of every county, controlled public opinion, subdued all spirit of resistance, and acting in phalanx, and, by concert, secured an echo from every organ, even the most diminutive, to the expressed will of the central junto. Illustrious talent, ripe experience, and well-tryed patriotism, must fall into the ranks, bow to the central power, and wheel at the word of command, or be proscribed by the ruthless despotism. A sort of political Procrustean bed — talent and worth go for nothing — exact discipline and perfect obedience, the only tests of excellence. Sir, we have no such regency; we can have none. It cannot live among us in power. It would live only in doggerel or in pasquinade, the sport of the wit, the butt of the wag, and the scorn of honest citizens. It would be an organization without power, a Government without subjects — a mere *caput mortuum*, with “none so poor as to do it reverence.”

As we have no man or set of men, who control public opinion at will, so I think no man or set of men, can transfer, at will, popularity to another. I regard the idea that the suffrage of North Carolina can be transferred to the Executive favorite, as deeply insulting to the intelligence and independence of our citizens. I know that the opinion is entertained, and warmly cherished, but I think it is founded in a profound misconception of the character of our people. They cannot, they will not, be transferred — they will judge and decide for themselves — wisely, I trust: independently, I am sure. The people of that State had borne much, they were less excitable than some of their more mercurial neighbors; but there was a point beyond which the experiment now making upon them and the country could not be safely carried. It had been stated by his honorable colleague, and doubtless from his conviction of its truth, “that he had no doubt that North Carolina would always